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FROM : J. BARRY HARRELSON
TO : T. JEREMY GUNN
TITLE : MF: CIA-IR-21, MONTHLY OPERATIONAL REPORTS FOR THE DRE
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~~CIA SPECIAL COLLECTIONS~~
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~~2000~~

C/HRG

Monroy/Howard

20 January 1998

Memorandum For: T. Jeremy Gunn
Executive Director
Assassination Records Review Board

From: J. Barry Harrelson
Senior Reviewer
JFK Project

Subject: CIA-IR-21, Monthly Operational Reports
For the DRE

1. Reference is made to your request for subject information as further refined in your 18 December 1997 letter to Chief, Historical Review Group. Specifically, you asked about missing DRE monthly operational reports and the identity of "Howard," the name to which the DRE appears to have sent correspondence.

2. The Agency has searched appropriate data bases and files for the "missing" reports. In addition, the responsible offices have researched the questions contained within your request. Based on these rather extensive efforts, we can advise you as follows.

3. Missing operational monthly reports. The searches conducted by the Agency failed to locate any of the reports that appear to be "missing" -- December 1962 through April 1964, in general, and those for August and November 1963 in particular. It should be noted that during the period in question, major policy differences between the Agency and DRE developed. This was particularly true of the latter years of association because the DRE would not take directions or instructions about a number of operational matters, insisting on engaging in activities the Agency did not sanction. These differences caused the Agency to reduce the level of funding for the DRE. It also replaced the officer designated to deal with the DRE. Then, about the same time, the monthly operational reports trailed off. It seems probable these events are linked and that reporting in the form of such monthly reports simply stopped. The DRE files we did find are also within the sequestered JFK collection and they have previously been made available to ARRB staff member Manuel Legaspi.

4. The identity of "Howard." With reference to your request for information on "Howard," we, like you, have no clear understanding about the use of this particular name on

DRE messages. The phrase, "To Howard" was used as the addressee of several DRE prepared memoranda. We first attempted to identify if, in fact, "Howard" was an actual person. The name was not found to be a pseudonym. It also was not found to be a registered alias. It also is not the true name of any case officer associated with the DRE operation at the time the DRE documents were written. Following review of those data bases, knowledgeable case officers were queried suggested that the use of "To Howard" might have been nothing more than a routing indicator to ensure that the documents got to the correct CIA office/officer or that the sender was someone known to the recipient.

5. If you have any further questions in this regard, please advise.


J. Barry Harrelson